

REMARKS

The applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the application and requests reexamination and reconsideration of the application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

As a preliminary matter, the applicant requests that the Examiner acknowledge the Information Disclosure Statement and references cited by the applicant and filed on December 7, 2004, prior to the mailing date of the Office Action. A copy of the Form PTO-A820 for the December 7, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement submittal and a copy of the date-stamped postcard, stamped December 10, 2004, are attached hereto.

The applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's approval of the applicant's amendments to Figures included in the Preliminary Amendment filed by the applicant.

The applicant also acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-20, 22-27 and 30-42. The applicant notes that claims 23-43 depend directly or indirectly from claim 22, a method claim, and thus the applicant has amended the preambles of claims 23-43 to state the "method ...", and the applicant maintains that these claims are still in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejects claims 21, 28-29 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, stating that certain terms in claims 21 and 43 are not understood, and that claims 28 and 29 lack antecedent basis.

Claims 28 and 29 as amended provide an antecedent basis. Accordingly, claims 28 and 29 are in condition for allowance.

The terms recited in claims 21 and 43, i.e. BMP-3, T-80MBT, BMP-3 ICV; ARENA APS and T-80UM2 are various types of tanks or infantry combat vehicles. MBT typically

stands for main battle tank; ARENA APS typically stands for an ARENA active protection system; BMP also typically stands for a type of tank or infantry combat vehicle. These abbreviations for different types of tanks is understood by those of ordinary skill in the art, and amendments to these claims would be improper because these abbreviations for the types of tanks as they are known to those of ordinary skill in the art.

Accordingly, claims 21 and 43 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, claims 21, 28-29, and 43 are in condition for allowance, in addition to allowed claims 1-20, 22-27, and 30-42.

Each of Examiner's have been addressed or traversed. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason this Response is found to be incomplete, or if at any time it appears that a telephone conference with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts at (781) 890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas E. Thompkins, Jr.
Reg. No. 47,136